

Message Text

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21

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 RSC-01

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00

FRB-01 XMB-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 /068 W

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R 151100Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7272

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 0097

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EIND, BEXP, TD

SUBJ: IDC IRON AND STEEL PROJECT

REF: A) POS 2926 AND PREVIOUS; B) POS 0080

ALSO FOR COMMERCE/MEPD

1. DEPT WILL NOTE FROM REF (B) THAT PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS PLANS TO SPEND SOME TIME IN TEXAS MEETING WITH U.S. INDUSTRIAL FIRMS FOLLOWING HIS TRIP TO JAPAN. WHEN APPRISED OF THIS, I NOTED OUR DISAPPOINTMENT THAT HE AND HIS PARTY HAD BEEN UNABLE TO MEET WITH ARMCO OFFICIALS DURING HIS NOVEMBER TRIP, AND HE INDICATED THAT CANCELLATION OF THE NOVEMBER TEXAS STOPOVER HAD BEEN UNAVOIDABLE

I THEN ASKED IF A DECISION HAD BEEN REACHED ABOUT WHICH DIRECT REDUCTION PROCESS WOULD BE USED BY THE PROPOSED PLANT, AND HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HE HAD EXPECTED IT TO BE MADE BY NOW, NO DECISION HAS YET BEEN MADE. THE DECISION ITSELF IS UP TO A GROUP HEADED BY DR. KENNETH JULIEN, VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (IDC). THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD ME THAT HE HIMSELF IS IN NO POSITION TO EVALUATE COMPETING PROCESSES ON TECHNICAL GROUNDS, AND COMPLAINED THAT HE CAN LEARN LITTLE FROM PLANT VISITS. HE DID NOT SPECIFICALLY INDICATE, HOWEVER, IF HE MIGHT BE

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RECEPTIVE TO A MEETING WITH ARMCO OFFICIALS WHICH DID NOT

INVOLVE A PLANT VISIT.

2. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR THAT KORF'S MIDREX PROCESS STILL IS HIGHLY LIKELY TO BE THE ONE SELECTED FOR THE STEEL PLANT, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF WILLY KORF'S MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER IN FLORIDA LAST NOVEMBER AND PARTICIPATION BY KORF STEEL IN THE NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON OIL POLICY NOW UNDER WAY IN TRINIDAD. NEVERTHELESS, I BELIEVE THAT PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS MIGHT BE AMENABLE TO A MEETING WITH ARMCO OFFICIALS IN TEXAS NEXT MONTH. I WILL DEFER TO THE DEPARTMENT'S JUDGEMENT WHETHER OR NOT TO TRY TO ARRANGE SUCH A MEETING, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE EFFORT WHICH WENT INTO THE ATTEMPTED GET-TOGETHER LAST NOVEMBER. AS SOON AS I LEARN MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE PM'S PRECISE ITINERARY DURING HIS TEXAS VISIT, WE WILL SO INFORM THE DEPARTMENT. THE PRIME MINISTER MADE IT CLEAR TO ME THAT THE TWO PRINCIPAL FACTORS WHICH WOULD DETERMINE A DECISION WILL BE THE TECHNICAL PROCESS AND FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS.
MILLER

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